

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Steven Nix
1st V.P. Glenn Sanders
2nd V.P. Howard Black
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Stacey Plooster
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt
and Joe Bert



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Volume 18, Number 10

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October, 2018

Our Next Meeting is Thurs, Oct, 18 at 7:00 PM, early arrivals, 6:00 PM

Low grade rare coins are worth acquiring if they are problem-free

Club Meeting Calendar for 2018

Jan. 18	May 17	Sep. 20
Feb. 15	June 21	Oct. 18
Mar. 15	July 19	Nov. 15
Apr. 19	Aug. 16	Dec. 20

You want to acquire a better date coin-type
But don't buy just any specimen



An 1821 Capped Bust quarter, B-4, R2 graded VF-25 by NGC
[Enlarge image up to 200% to view coin's details.]

One of the more elusive US type-coins is the large size Capped Bust quarter. The series, designed by Asst. Chief Mint Engraver, John Reich was struck from 1815 thru 1828 although not in every year. Two of the dates, the 1823/2 business strike and the 1827/3 proof only and later restrikes are rare and well beyond the means of all but the very wealthy. The 1824/2 is also tough date to acquire. The less pricey dates are the 1818 thru 1822, the 1825 and the 1828 grading up to VF-25.

With a reported mintage of 216,851, the 1821 is considered a common date although a good chunk of that mintage may have been dated 1820 which appears more frequently despite its much lower reported mintage of 127,444.

The example of the 1821 large size Capped Bust quarter shown above was acquired back in March, 2002 at an American Numismatic Association regional show held in Jacksonville, FL that year. At the time it didn't cost much but since the author's purchase, the retail price has doubled in value. If readers enlarge the page to fill the PC monitor screen, they will see aside from the natural wear, sufficient detail of the central images, stars, numerals and lettering on the coin along with surfaces that appear original and mark free.

Collecting early 20th Century modern US Coinage

By Arno Safran



The obverses of six different dated early 20th Century BU denominations (excluding gold)

[Enlarge image up to 200% to view coin's dates and details.]

The wave of new type coins that occurred during the early years of the 20th century was astounding. It began with President Theodore Roosevelt's desire to improve our coinage designs from the previous two decades which resulted in the most important artistic revolution involved in our coinage program. This began in 1907 with the release of Augustus Saint-Gaudens' brilliant Striding Liberty design-type that appeared on the 1907 twenty-dollar double eagle. Saint-Gaudens was one of the great sculptors of that period and his disciples were many. Among them were, Bela Lyon Pratt, James Earl Fraser and Adolf Weinman. Theodore Roosevelt recognized Victor David Brenner's talent on a plaque he engraved featuring Abraham Lincoln that would later be used for the Lincoln cent. Anthony De Francisci, who created the Peace dollar in 1921 was the last of the early 20th century engravers and was influenced by Adolf Weinman. The obverses of the six denominations (excluding gold) show both a fresh concept of coinage designs for its time along with functionality in our coinage.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting early 20th Century modern US Coinage

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

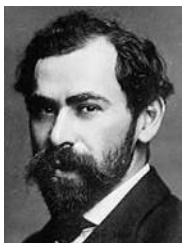


The reverses of six different dated early 20th Century BU denominations (excluding gold)
[Enlarge image up to 200% to view coin's details]

The reverses of each denomination are also brilliant in their own artistic way. The portrayal of the eagle on the each of the three larger silver denominations was both fashionable and representative of each artist's style and considering how modern they appeared to some of their contemporaries these design types were never considered as avant-garde as the paintings of Picasso, Matisse or Braque.



A 1916: Lincoln Wheat sent certified MS-65 RD by PCGS
[Enlarge image up to 200% to view coin's details]



Victor David Brenner
Designer of the Lincoln cent

because the difference in the price range especially today is enormous; just \$325, for the 1916-P, \$1,300 for the 1916-D and a whopping \$6,750 for the 1916-S, the last named considered a semi-key date for the set and very rare in MS-65 Red.

The 1916-P specimen was acquired at the FUN Show held in Orlando, FL in 2013 for \$100 less than the figure quoted today. The author assumes that the tiny circular spot located at the center of the left sheaf on the reverse may have netted the price down somewhat. Nevertheless, since "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder", the author pleased to have the coin.

In 1916, a cent had the purchasing power of 23¢.



A 1917 Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel certified MS-65 by PCGS
[Enlarge image up to 200% to view coin's details]



James Earl Fraser

With a mintage of 51,424,0219, the 1917-P Buffalo nickel is not considered a scarce date, let alone rare compared with the 1917-D with a mintage, 9,910,000 and the 1917-S with just 4,193,000 struck.. MS-65 specimens of the 1917-P however are not all that common and finding a well struck MS-65 specimen with beautiful toning can be a challenge.

One of the aspects of James Earl Fraser's Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel design (1913-1938-D) is the fullness of the central devices on both sides of the coin. In 1917, the nickel coin was the workhorse of the economy and five cents had then purchasing power of almost \$1.00.



A 1919 Mercury dime certified MS-64 FB by PCGS
[Enlarge image up to 500% to view coin's details]



Adolf Weinman for the Winged Liberty dime nicknamed *Mercury* and Walking Liberty half-dollar. The result of the alliance was the creation of two coins that are regarded as artistic masterpieces to this day.

In 1919, the Philadelphia Mint struck 33,740,000 *Mercury* dimes compared with just 9,939,000 at Denver and only 8,850,000 at the San Francisco facility. The reason for the far greater mintages produced at Philadelphia during this period and earlier was due to the larger numbers of Americans living in the eastern United States at that time. As a result, the survivors of P Mint issues tend to be greater and less costly. During the early 20th century, most P Mint coins were better struck as well. Upon enlarging the image of the dime shown directly above you will see that the bands on the reverse are fully split. *Mercury* dimes with that feature command a premium over those which do not. In 1919, ten cents had the purchasing power of \$1.42 today.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Collecting early 20th Century modern US Coinage

(Continued from page 2, column 2)



A 1920 Standing Liberty Quarter certified MS-64 by PCGS
[Enlarge image up to 200% to view coin's details]

The Standing Liberty quarter was struck from 1916 thru 1930 and is one of the most beautiful types for that denomination. It was designed by Harmon MacNeil, another renowned sculptor of the period. One of his models, Doris Doscher, posed for the coin. With a mintage of 27,800,000, the 1920-P shown above is the most common date of the series and moderately priced in the grade shown. The MS-64 specimen shown above is well struck with an almost full head.



Harmon MacNeil

The fine points of the obverse which include not only the head but the dots along the shield and other details are extremely clear. With the expectations of two key dates, the 1916 and 1918/17 plus four semi key dates, the 1919-D, 1919-S, 1923-S and 1927-S, most of the other dates are affordable up thru MS-63. The 1921-P is scarce but on the cusp of affordability.

Instead of the standard twenty-five years allotted to a specified type, the series was truncated after a fifteen year run to make way for a commemorative quarter celebrating the bi-centennial of George Washington's birth in 1732. In 1920, 25¢ had the purchasing power of \$2.36.



Doris Doscher



A 1918-Walking Liberty half-dollar graded MS-62 by PCGS
[Enlarge image up to 200% to view coin's details]

The Walking Liberty half-dollar was designed by Adolf Weinman. The model was Elsie Stevens. (See statue at right.) The coin-type was struck from 1916 thru 1947. From 1934 on, the dates are relatively common.



Weinman's Bust of Elsie Stevens

As for the years prior to 1934, the commonest dates are the 1916-P & D, the 1917-P, 1918-S and the 1920-P. The 1918-P shown had a mintage of 6.7 million yet is considered somewhat scarce although not as rare as the 1919-P. The coin was acquired at the 1912 GNA convention and appears closer to a MS-63.

In 1918, 50¢ had the purchasing power of \$8.14.



A 1925 Peace dollar certified MS-64 by NGC (older holder)
[Enlarge image up to 200% to view coin's details]

Of all the denominations in this article, the 1925 Peace dollar is perhaps the easiest coin to acquire and the least expensive in the uncirculated grade of MS-64. Over 10 million of these cartwheels were struck that year at the Philadelphia Mint compared with only 1.6 million at the San Francisco facility and there are millions around in mint state for collectors to acquire in as high as MS-64 similar to the example shown above for no more than \$65.00 today.

Unlike the other denominations which saw heavy circulation, the silver dollar of this era--like the Morgan dollar that preceded it--hardly circulated. The key dates are the 1928-P, rare in all grades and the 1934-S, rare in mint state only. The 1921 is somewhat scarce. The most common dates are the 1922-1925 Philadelphia Mint issues. The sculptor Anthony de Francisci asked his lovely wife Theresa to pose as Miss Liberty for the coin. A dollar had the value of \$14.00 in 1925.



**Anthony De Francisci
And his wife, Theresa**

The coins launched during the first two decades of the 20th century have been dubbed "The Golden Age of US Coinage" by historians and numismatists and a BU type set is affordable.



An early certified BU 20th Century certified BU type set in line 1c- \$1
[Enlarge image up to 200% to view coin's details]

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC. MINUTES OF MEETING September 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Steve Nix. We had 37 members and two guests present.

Secretary's Report:

The August 16, 2018 minutes were not read. A copy is kept on file.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report was read by Stacey Plooster. We have \$11,787.12 deposited in the checking account.

Prize Winners:

Tommy Rhoden won a 2018 Silver Eagle. Ed Deketeleare won a 2018 Silver Eagle and the winner of the 50/50 raffle was Glenn Sanders (\$60.00).

Fall Coin Show Nov 16th (Friday) and November 17th (Saturday) 2018:

David Chism - Bourse Chairman. The Fall Coin Show will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Wal-Mart at Exit 190. David reported 37 tables were sold. Our club is looking for someone to take over the concession stand. David Chism reported that the dealers can set up on Thursday night if they want to from 4 to 8 pm. Mr. Sammy Lucky will provide the 400 postcards that we will mail out along with numerous advertising efforts in coin publications. Signature Book was passed out for exhibitors and members to sign up for help at the concession stand and front desk.

Show & Tell:

Jason Gotcher displayed a small date 1846 US Large Cent. Melton Druckenmille displayed a 125th Anniversary Token of McCormick, South Carolina

The Program:

Our program "The US Coins of 1850 during a time of National Crisis" was presented by Arno Safran. He reviewed some of the history going back to President Andrew Jackson who served from 1829-1837. The Panic of 1837 was followed by a five-year depression, with the failure of banks and record high unemployment levels. One of the causes of "the Panic of 1837" were the result of policies by President Andrew Jackson who cancelled the renewal of the US Bank charter in 1832 and ordered, that payments of government lands be paid in gold or silver in 1836 which lead to the copper coinage of 1837 Hand Time Tokens. This recession lasted until the mid-1840s.

In 1848, Gold was discovered on January 24, 1848 by James W. Marshall at Sutter's Mill in Colona, California. California was admitted to the union as the 31st State in 1850, after Texas gave up claim to the land. Arno showed photos of fashions, paintings and artist's etchings of Congress debating Senator Henry Clay's *Compromise of 1850* along with all the US coins struck that year. He also displayed some of the important changes in our coins during the period that led up to 1850. These included the 1804 Silver Dollar (struck in 1834) and the Gobrecht Dollar which was minted from 1836 to 1839.



The 2018 Augusta Medallion struck in silver wash
It depicts the Old Medical College of Augusta

The winner of our 2018 Augusta Medallion was the Old Medical College of Augusta (1835). Cost is \$12.00 each. Only 75 medallions will be struck, 25 each in copper, antique bronze and silver wash. The coins are in stock, but limited.

Old Business:

2018 Club dues \$15.00 per year are past due. We had 3 juniors draw from the junior box of coins.

New Business:

Arno Safran sadly reported that his lovely wife Vilma is now staying at the Marshal Pines Memory Care Assisted Living Center located at 743 North Belair Road, Evans, Georgia. Arno passed around to the members photos of Vilma taken during the past 20 years.

The club needs 8 people to sign up for a Van trip to the SCNA Coin Show on Saturday, October 27th in order for them to furnish a van (cost \$10 each). It's definitely worth attending.

Area Shows:

Camden Coin Show	September 22, 2018
SCNA Show Greenville, SC	October 26-28, 2018

The South Carolina Numismatic Association
Invites you to attend their
46th Annual Coin & Currency Show
October 26, 27, & 28, 2018
Friday & Saturday 10AM-6PM, Sunday 10AM-3PM

TD Convention Center
1 Exposition Drive, Greenville, SC 29607
FREE Admission & **FREE** Parking

Educational Programs:
Saturday 10AM Boy Scout merit badge program
Register with scna_webmaster@yahoo.com
Young Numismatists Program (Ages 8 to 18) running
continuously during the whole convention
PLEASE BRING THIS POSTCARD WITH YOU TO THE SHOW

Our Monthly Auction:

Glenn Sanders ran the auction (16 lots). John Mason and Jason Gotcher delivered the goods as the auction was carried on therefore speeding the auction up. Our bids recorder was David Chism.

Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway

Collecting the subtle and not so subtle changes in the Liberty Seated dime series (minus the "with arrows")



An 1837 Liberty Seated dime with no stars graded AU-58 by NGC
[Enlarge page from 200% to 500% to view details.]

The Liberty Seated dime was struck from 1837 thru 1891. During its fifty-five year run, the coin type underwent several changes from *no stars* (1837-P and 1838-O to *with stars*, (1838-P to 1860-S), from *no drapery* and slanted shield (1837-1840) to *with drapery* and upright shield (1840-P to 1860),



Obverses of both 1840 dimes: At left, the *no drapery* slanted shield and at right, the *with drapery* upright shield
[Enlarge page from 200% to 500% to view details.]

From 1840 thru 1860-S, the Lib. Std. dime displayed the *with stars* on the obverse and Laurel wreath on the reverse.



An 1843 Lib. Std. dime with stars, drapery and upright shield
Graded AU-55 by NGC
[Enlarge page from 200% to 500% to view details.]

In 1860, the stars were replaced with the *legend* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA on the obverse and a thicker wreath embodying corn, cotton, tobacco and wheat replaced the laurel wreath on the reverse.



An toned 1885 Liberty Seated dime graded MS-64 by PCGS
Showing the legend on the obverse and a thicker wreath on the reverse
[Enlarge page from 200% to 500% to view details.]

Here's an odd observation. When Charles Barber created his Liberty Head dime he should have taken only half of the credit. Look at the reverse.



An 1892 Barber dime graded MS-63 by PCGS
Enlarge page from 200% to 500% to view details.]

**AUGUSTA COIN CLUB
2018 FALL SHOW**

GOLD ★ SILVER ★ CURRENCY ★ TOKENS ★ MEDALS
EXONUMIA ★ JEWELRY ★ COLLECTIBLES ★ SUPPLIES

FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING
PUBLIC INVITED

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH &
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH**
9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
YN PROGRAM SATURDAY NOON

COLUMBIA COUNTY EXHIBITION CENTER
212 Partnership Drive – Grovetown, Georgia
Exit 190 on I-20, go south one block, turn left and drive straight into Exhibition Center.

RAFFLE DRAWING
Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Purchase tickets from Club
Members or at Registration.

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